

ABSOLUTE RATING: Unsatisfactory
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Below Average

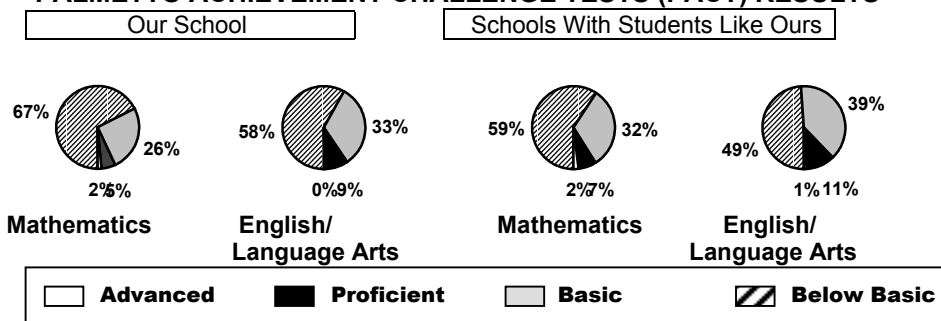
Number of middle schools with students similar to ours: 35. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from unsatisfactory to average. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2001	Unsatisfactory	Below Average
2002		
2003		
2004		

(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- **Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- **Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- **Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- **Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

Science scores are to be reported on 2004 School Report Cards. Social studies scores are to be reported on 2005 School Report Cards.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR ABOVE ON THE PACT

Student Group	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
All students (n=462)	42%	32.5%	N/A	N/A
Students with disabilities other than Speech (n=35)	17.1%	13.9%		
Students without disabilities (n=421)	44.7%	34.4%		
Gender				
Male (n=222)	36%	30.2%		
Female (n=234)	48.7%	35.3%		
Ethnic Group				
African American (n=371)	38%	28.2%		
Hispanic (n=3)	N/A	N/A		
White (n=78)	61.5%	54.5%		
Other (n=4)	N/A	N/A		
Lunch Status Group				
Free/reduced-price Lunch (n=347)	38%	28.2%		
Pay for lunch (n=109)	56.9%	47.7%		

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$6,042	N/A	\$5,548	\$5,127
• Prime instructional time	88.8%	Down from 90.8%	87.9%	89.6%
• Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	27.3 to 1	N/A	20.1 to 1	21.4 to 1
STUDENTS (n=532)				
• Attendance rate	98.1%	Down from 100%	95.1%	95.7%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.1%	N/A	7.6%	4.5%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (math) off grade level	2.8%	N/A	6.2%	4.0%
• Retention rate	8.2%	N/A	7.4%	4.5%
TEACHERS (n=38)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	9.1 Days	Down from 10.1	8.9 Days	8.0 Days
• Attendance Rate	92.9%	Down from 93.5%	94.5%	95.2%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	44.7%	Up from 39.3%	43.7%	45.8%
• Continuing contract teachers	68.4%	Up from 67.9%	76.2%	80.8%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	0%	No change	2.6%	2.4%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	N/A	N/A	80.8%	83.7%
• Average teacher salary	\$38,841	Up 8.4%	\$36,872	\$37,455

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
SCHOOL				
• Dropout rate	0%	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	56.1%	N/A	61.1%	61.5%
• Principal's years at the school	2	N/A	2	3.0
• Parents attending conferences	99%	N/A	71.7%	78.2%
• Opportunities in the arts	Poor	N/A	Good	Good
STUDENTS				
• On academic plans	N/A	N/A	62%	45.8%
• On academic probation	N/A	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Older than usual for grade	8.3%	Up from 5.3%	7.6%	4.5%
• Suspended or expelled	37	N/A	24	15
• Enrolled in high school credit courses	16.3%	N/A	6.8%	13.2%
• Gifted and talented	10.2%	Up from 7.8%	6.6%	12.1%
• With disabilities other than speech	13.2%	Up from 6.7%	13.7%	13.6%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Whale Branch Middle School had an exciting and productive 2000-01 school year as a new year-round middle school. We made progress in improving student achievement through the help of Title I funding and school-wide literacy development. Yet, test scores still indicate a need to focus additional effort on developing students' reading, writing and math skills.

In January 2000, Whale Branch opened its \$14 million state-of-the-art facility, which featured internet access in every classroom, a wireless network system, two PC computer labs, and laptop carts. The school is ideally designed for a variety of innovative learning experiences.

Whale Branch Middle School Improvement Council has actively worked to make it a successful year. Among our accomplishments, we are proud that: 1) students showed significant gains on the Accelerated Reader & Math Tests; 2) students completed a variety of reading and writing projects; 3) a Literacy Coach trained teachers in reading strategies and opened a Literacy Center; 4) 99% of parents participated in academic planning conferences; 5) plans to develop a marine and environmental science program included installing outdoor learning stations, a dock, a nature trail, and a greenhouse; 6) technology grants have provided 45 hours of teacher training on using computers; 7) in a national competition of 1500 schools, Whale Branch was awarded a Palm Pilot Grant to integrate science, math and technology; and 8) 205 students participated in the Star Base Science & Engineering Program at the Marine Corps Air Station.

Whale Branch has many supportive community partners. To assist students with academic needs, the Communities In Schools Program offered classes after school and during intermissions to more than 200 students. We are the only school in the county sponsoring the F.A.S.T. program for children and families, with school-based mental health counseling. Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Center also opened a school-based health clinic to serve families at Whale Branch Middle School.

Our challenges for next year will be to continue making progress in student learning, improve teacher expertise, and strengthen the curriculum in math and science. We are proud of our students and teachers at Whale Branch Middle School, "Where Bright Minds Soar."

Rosalyn Browne, principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	80.6	68.0	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	90.0	71.9	
Satisfied with home-school relations	61.3	76.1	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

701027

Whale Branch Middle
2009 Trask Parkway
Seabrook, SC 29940

Grades 6-8 Middle School

Enrollment: 532 Students

Principal

Ms. Rosalyn Browne 843-466-3000

Superintendent

Herman K. Gaither 843-322-2300

Board Chair

Earl Campbell 843-846-4531



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Unsatisfactory



South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myschools.com